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10/644,425	8/20/2003	Pierre-Yves Sibille	2002P13423US01

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 1 and 12; and **ADD** new claims 21-29, as indicated below. A complete listing of the claims follows.

1. (Currently amended) A method for signaling a bearer connection coupled to a telecommunications network, wherein the telecommunications network employs a first protocol and the bearer connection employs a second protocol, the method comprising the steps of:

mapping at least a portion of the first protocol to the second protocol; and

inserting a first signal of the first protocol into a second signal of the second protocol according to the mapping, wherein the <u>inserted</u> first signal ~~of the first protocol~~ is employed in the control of the bearer connection, <u>wherein a portion of the second protocol is redefined as a private field to receive the inserted first signal</u>.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first protocol is an Internet Protocol (IP), and the step of mapping maps at least a portion of the Internet Protocol to the second protocol.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the second protocol is an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) protocol and the step of mapping maps at least a portion of the ATM protocol to the first protocol.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first protocol is an Internet Protocol (IP) and the second protocol is an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) protocol, wherein the step of mapping maps at least a portion of the Internet Protocol to the ATM protocol.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of translating the first signal of the first protocol into a signal suitable for insertion into the second signal of the second protocol according to the mapping.

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6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the first protocol is an Internet Protocol (IP), wherein the step of translating translates an Internet Protocol address into a signal that is insertable into a predetermined area of the second signal of the second protocol.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the second signal of the second protocol is an ATM address and the step of translating translates the Internet Protocol address into a signal suitable for insertion into an area within a network prefix of the ATM address.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the step of mapping redefines a portion of the network prefix field following an authority and format identifier.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first signal of the first protocol is Internet Protocol (IP) port information, wherein the step of translating translates the Internet Protocol port information into a signal that is insertable into a predetermined area of the second signal of the second protocol.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the second signal of the second protocol is a generic identifier transport (GIT) information element, and wherein the step of translating translates the first signal into a signal suitable for insertion into the GIT information element.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the step of mapping maps the first signal translated into a user data area of the GIT information element.

12. (Currently amended) An apparatus for signaling a bearer connection coupled to a telecommunications network, wherein the telecommunications network employs a first protocol and the bearer connection employs a second protocol, the apparatus comprising:

a translator that translates, according to a predetermined mapping, between a first signal of the first protocol and a second signal of the second protocol; and

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a gateway that inserts the first signal translated by the translator into the second signal, wherein the <u>inserted</u> first signal is employed in the control of the bearer connection, <u>and wherein a portion of the second protocol is redefined as a private field to receive the inserted first signal.</u>

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the telecommunications network is an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the bearer connection employs an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) protocol.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the mapping maps at least a portion of an internet protocol (IP) to an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) protocol.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a map that maps at least a portion of the first protocol to the second protocol.

17. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the map maps the portion of the first protocol to an area suitable for insertion into the second signal of the second protocol.

18. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a switch.

19. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising an ingress media gateway for receiving the first signal translated and inserted into the second signal for setting up an initiating call.

20. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising an egress media gateway for receiving the first signal translated and inserted into the second signal for setting up a terminating call.

21. (New) A method for signaling a bearer connection coupled to a telecommunications network, wherein the telecommunications network employs a first protocol and the bearer connection employs a second protocol, the method comprising the steps of:

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mapping a control signal of the first protocol formatted according to the first protocol to the second protocol, wherein a format for control signals of the first protocol differs from a format for control signals of the second protocol, at least in part; and

inserting the control signal from the first protocol into a private filed of the second protocol according to the mapping so that the mapped control signal is inserted according to the format for control signals of the second protocol; and

extracting from the second protocol, the inserted control signal wherein the extracted control signal dynamically controls, at least in part, establishment of the bearer connection.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the step for mapping includes basing the mapping on a virtual addressing overlay that includes a private addressing scheme overlayed over a public addressing scheme of the second protocol.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the overlayed private addressing scheme provides for inserting the control signal into the second signal so that the inserted control signal is operationally segregated within the public addressing scheme of the second protocol.

24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the step for extracting extracts the inserted control signal from the virtual addressing overlay.

25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the first protocol is the Internet Protocol (IP).

26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the first protocol is the Internet Protocol (IP) and the step for mapping includes mapping session description protocol (SDP) data into the second protocol.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the SDP data is mapped based on a virtual addressing overlay, wherein the virtual addressing overlay includes a private addressing scheme overlayed over a portion of a public addressing scheme of the second protocol.

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28. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the second protocol is the asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) protocol.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the private field receives the inserted first signal while functionally maintaining the addressing scheme of the second protocol.